

THE DAILY  
SHORT STORY

## Hope

By JESSIE DOUGLAS

Hope thrust one toe into the water and withdrew it, shivered, cast a frightened glance behind her and slipped down suddenly under the next great wave.

The sea water glistened on her cheeks, her blue eyes sparkled, her little patient mouth smiled suddenly.

She forgot that she was just spending two weeks alone at Niles Beach, she forgot that she was aching in every part of her brain and her body from weariness. Now, for this afternoon, she was part of the sea and the sky and the sand. The waves that rolled in were no more playful than she, the white caps tossed no more frothy than her sudden laugh.

Oh, she could swim! And she wanted to swim out, out to the left of green island that laughed under the sun! But when she had gone half way and felt her breath come harder, she was frightened suddenly. Terribly frightened; as though the sea had turned cruel and those waves roaring in had some evil intent in their touch. The glistening dome of the sky shut her in like a great smothering blue.

She turned over very deliberately and floated. She seemed to float for a long, long time; she felt as though some must have passed her by when she opened her eyes slowly and saw that she had drifted back to the white sand.

"You plucky little thing!" Hope turned.

What she saw sent a sudden wild flutter through her heart. He was a young man with a brown skin and a pair of eyes that laughed at her and admired her and mocked her all at once.

"I'll race you to the edge of the sun," he said, studying her.

Now she was conscious of how she looked in his eyes. She glanced down hurriedly at her old black suit with its long, disfiguring sleeves, at the cotton stockings that wrinkled about her ankles, she put up a timid hand to the knot of dingy black that kept her hair from wetting.

"Coming?" Hope hesitated. Then she swallowed all her prejudices, all her timidities and gave him a shy smile. It was she who took the first breaker ahead, it was he who won the race; but as they came rasping back to the beach, once more he said slowly:

"How jolly you look without all those bulky things to hinder you from swimming!"

"Good-by," she answered, and fled surreptitiously up the beach to the house on the edge of the sand where she had her room and board.

That night almost guiltily she sat down and wrote to a big department store and ordered a new bathing suit. When two days later she tried it on before her mirror and saw the soft satin of it gleam and crinkle beneath her carmine fingers, a sudden feeling of having wings came to her. Almost guiltily she crept down to the yellow sand.

He was there.

"I've been waiting for you," he said, gravely, "for two days."

Then his eyes fell on her satin figure. He was laughing at her. Hope could see it and she blushed hotly and made a sudden run for the sea. The blue waves sparkled and danced, and she laid a rosy cheek against their salty caress.

"Do you think," he smiled catching up to her in two strokes, "that you could swim to the sandbar?"

When at least they sat on the strip of moist sand, dangle their toes in the sea, he said, gravely, "Take off that bit of faded ribbon from your hair!"

Obediently her hand obeyed him, and as the sun caught the red in her brown braid he gave a satisfied sigh.

"With a bit of gold ribbon about your hair," he said slowly.

When they reached the beach again he had not asked her name, she did not know his. She said good-by with a trifle breathlessly.

The next morning she bought a bit of gold ribbon. She tied it about her thick braid, wound coronet fashion, across her white forehead, and went fearfully down to the beach.

He was not there.

She went slowly down to the sea. All the sparkle had left the waves, the breakers roared in, like white seahorses, their foamy mane blowing their breath a salt salute. She shivered as the cold water touched her body.

How lonely the world was! How empty a waste that white stretch of sand. Very slowly she walked back to the house, shivering in all the heat of that long afternoon.

At supper her landlady joined her.

"Heard that young Marlow's been seen?" she asked. "You know, Marlow, who's been house-breaking hereabouts. Him with the blue eyes and the brown skin and the pleasant way with him. I ain't had light nor sight of him!"

Hope lowered her face over her plate. Her cheeks were blazing hot; she lifted her fork, with a hand that trembled like eyes. Brown skin. A pleasant way with him.

The ocean thundered like drums in the wilderness. She caught up her shabby little coat and went down to the beach. Sunset still lingered in the sky, but she was not looking at the sky, but at a figure, tall and strong and brown, that came walking to her across the sand.

She held out a hand with a beseeching gesture.

"They're looking for you, the constables," she said; her throat very dry, she could scarcely make the words come out: "Go—now—I'll put them off!"

He studied her with mocking eyes.

Why should I go? he said. "Let

me come here and get me!"

Hope gave a little despairing cry.

"You must go, I'll send you money. You can begin again. I know how hard it is. I work I'm often desperate too."

The mocking light had left his eyes; something new and strange lighted them.

"I don't know your name," he said; his voice was almost husky.

"Hope."

He came up closer to her and took both her hands in his. "We're only known each other, five days, is it? Less? But I've found something new—Hope. No, I'm not going to let you pull away your hands. I'm not young Marlow, as you think, but just an ordinary man who's come away from all the sham and unreality of life back there—in the city."

Her cheeks were poppy-red. She could not lift her eyes. Her breath came brokenly from her parted lips.

"I suppose we've got to know each other's names and what we do; but all that comes later. Nothing matters much now except that I've found Hope."

"I've—I've got to go," she whispered.

"But this time I'm coming with you."

She gave him a sudden exultant look.

## SHINNSTON

## Mrs. Riffe Dies.

Mrs. Alice Riffe of Main street died Sunday morning. Mrs. Riffe had been ill for nineteen months suffering from paralysis. She is survived by her daughter, Mrs. J. B. Smith, and George Riffe of Shinnston, and Lucy Bryant Short of Farmington. Funeral services were held Monday afternoon with the Reverend Mr. Moyer of the Baptist Church officiating.

## Local Items.

Mr. and Mrs. C. C. Meredith of Fairmont were visiting the latter's parents, Mr. and Mrs. H. T. Shinn, Sunday.

Anna Brannon was visiting her brother, who resides at Zelisburg, Sunday.

James Abruzzino and John Car, der motored to Fairmont Sunday evening.

Miss Beatrice Dean has been ill at her home in East Shinnston for several weeks with an attack of tonsillitis.

Richard Cole of W. V. U. was visiting his parents, Mr. and Mrs. C. A. Cole, over the week-end.

Miss Mildred Grim, who is a student in Chicago, is visiting her parents, Mr. and Mrs. W. B. Grim.

Miss Lalah Riley visited her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Floyd Riley, the past week-end. She is a student at Wesleyan College.

Virgil Seese spent the week-end with relatives in Salem.

Miss Edna Curry Sunday.

Mrs. William Stout and small son Clyde were calling on I. E. Wiseman Sunday.

## Floor Practice Started.

Shinnston High School started basketball practice Monday evening. The coach has ordered new suits which will be here soon. This year Shinnston can boast of having one of the best gymnasiums in the state.

## Personals.

Miss Blanche Harmer, Richard Reed and Helen Bolman have returned to Ohio University at Athens, Ohio, after spending Thanksgiving with home folks.

Mrs. G. R. Martin was shopping in Clarksburg Friday.

Miss Virginia Martin and Joseph Floyd motored to West Milford Sunday.

Reginal Person of Gypsy was calling on friends in Shinnston Sunday.

Raymond Ford and Bailey Hawkins of Fairmont visited at the home of Harvey Bice Thursday.

Mrs. Harvey Bice spent Thanksgiving with friends in Sistersville.

Miss Marie McDonald attended the game at Clarksburg between Westway and Bethany.

Miss Florine Galmish spent Thanksgiving with friends at Gypsy.

Miss Bernice Ross visited in Pittsburgh during Thanksgiving holidays.

Miss Mildred Robinson was a visitor of Miss Louise Bice Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. G. R. Martin and family spent Thanksgiving with the latter's parents, Mr. and Mrs. John Hartley of Boothville.

Misses Martha and Annie Joseph and Marie Lundell and Sassin Peters motored to Clarksburg Sunday.

George Efters was visiting friends in Morgantown last week.

Mrs. Salem Joseph was visiting her sister in Mannington the past week.

Mr. and Mrs. C. E. Wells and daughter Geneva, Mr. and Mrs. E. Wells, all of St. Clairsville, Ohio, were visiting A. C. Martin the past week-end.

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Denham of Fairmont was visiting Mrs. Denham's sister Mrs. John Lucas, Sunday.

Miss Lila Springer of Enterprise visited her brother, Laurence Springer, on Thanksgiving.

Mrs. N. B. Cox and daughter Pauline were shopping in Fairmont Saturday.

David Abruzzino, Burl Pfouts and Pauline Cox, who are students at W. V. U., were visiting their parents over the week-end.

The Misses Jane and Kare Hill of Blackwater, Miss, were visiting Mr. and Mrs. George Anderson Sunday.

Mrs. Laura Skinner of Hamlet, Ohio, is visiting her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Benjamin Anderson of Shinnston.

Mr. and Mrs. Russell Teagarden of Oklahoma, formerly of Shinnston, are the parents of a baby boy who has been named Bobby Gene.

Miss Helen Wiseman of Clarksburg was visiting her parents, Mr. and Mrs. L. J. Wiseman, Sunday.

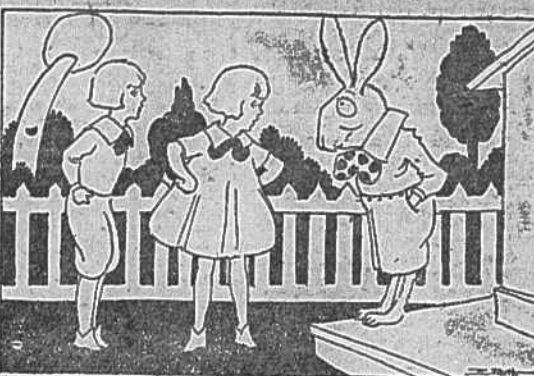
Miss Merle Bennett was calling on Miss Myrtle Shively Sunday.

Junior Randall, Robert Boone,

## ADVENTURES OF THE TWINS

By OLIVE ROBERTS BARTON.

## The Sass-Patch Tree



Then suddenly he whispered, "I want a sass-patch tree all for my own."

One day Nancy and Nick were passing Benny Bunny's house when Benny ran out and called them.

"Hey, there!" called the rabbit boy. "I wanta ask you something. Please stop a minute."

"Sure we will, Benny," said Nancy kindly. "What is it?"

"Say, said Benny, coming close, 'Can the Green Wizard do anything—anything at all?'"

"Yes, indeed," Nancy assured him. "Do you want something?"

"M-h-m!" nodded Benny putting his hands deep in his pants pockets and rocking on his toes. Then suddenly he whispered, "I want a sass-patch tree all for my own!"

"A what?" cried Nick.

"A sass-patch tree," repeated Benny Bunny.

"What's that?" asked Nancy quickly. "I never heard of one."

"Neither did I," said Benny. "I just made it up. But you said the Green Wizard could make anything at all. A sass-patch tree is a tree that has anything you want on it. All you have to do is stamp your foot and say, 'Tree have carrots on you!' And there will be the carrots. Or, Tree, I want some fresh peas, and the tree will shake down bushels of 'em. Or lettuce, or radishes, or nice young cabbage or anything."

"Well," said Nancy, "I'll see what we can do. We'll ask the Green Wizard."

"Sure!" nodded that gentleman when he heard the queer request. "Take this seed to Benny and he'll have his sass-patch tree in five minutes."

Benny was so happy he could hardly speak for delight. "There's nothing left to wish for," said he. "I have everything in the world."

Two days later the Green Wizard's telephone rang. "It's Benny Bunny," came a weak voice. "Will you trade your sass-patch garden tree for some stomach-ache medicine?" he asked.

"Yes, indeed!" answered the Wizard kindly. "But really, old piggy-wiggy, you don't deserve it."

(To Be Continued.)

## Fruit Cake

By BERTHA E. SHAPLEIGH  
Of Columbia University

1-2 cup butter

3-4 cup brown sugar

1-2 cup molasses

1 cup raisins seeded and cut into pieces

1 cup currants

1-2 cup citron, thinly sliced

2 eggs

2 cup black coffee

2 cups flour

1-2 teaspoon soda

1 teaspoon cinnamon

1-2 teaspoon each, clove, mace and allspice

1 teaspoon grated lemon rind

Cream together the butter and sugar. Add molasses, eggs well beaten and coffee. Sift flour with soda and spices and add to fruit. Combine mixture, bake in loaves one and one-half hours. Have a pan of water on bottom of oven while cake is baking.

Raymond Vincent, William Ogden Floyd McConough and Harold McIntire were in Clarksburg Wednesday attending Irving and Huntington High School football game.

Hayward Reed and Victor Riblett were in Fairmont Sunday.

Hayward Reed and Victor Riblett were inspecting the Harper Coal Co. plant Friday.

Among those attending the M. E. Conference at Wheeling Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday are Junior Randall, Guy Chaffant, Gl on Reed, Martha Hess and Pauline Sturm.

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